

While the writer urges that important changes in our methods of food analysis are needed, the first things to learn are what are the nutritive constituents of a food, what is the action of the digestive process upon them, and what is the use to the animal of the products of digestion.

## Correspondence.

### VENTILATION IN PRIVIES.

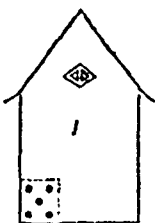
An esteemed correspondent writes us:

Chesterfield Chambers,  
18, St. Alexis Street.

Montreal, June 3rd, 1893.

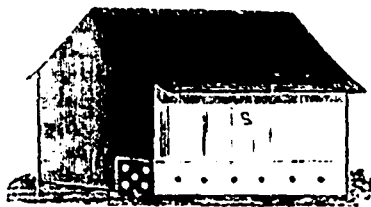
MY DEAR SIR,

One of the most disagreeable feature of country life, is the stinking cabinet d'aisance. I have discovered a plan of ventilation, which removes entirely



the smell making the ordinary privy almost inodorous.

Two diamond air holes 6 inches square in the gable and 2 inch auger holes at the end of the seat to the out-

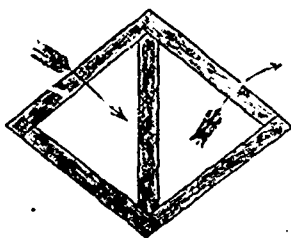


side, and a row of 2 inch auger holes 6 inches apart on the back of the house under the line of the seat.

Try the experiment and if a success publish a cut of it in the *Journal of Agriculture*.

Yours truly, G. W. S.

The system proposed is certainly efficacious. The only objection would be in winter, when the extra ventilation from below might be most hurtful. The diamond openings might be trapped, so as to open and close at will. Instead of the auger holes proposed, we prefer a ventilator starting below the seat and going through the peak of the roof. This ventilator should have a double partition, crosswise, allowing the cold air to come down from above by one of the partitions, whilst the lighter gases would have an exit through the other. This doubled partition ventilator will be found very useful in all buildings requiring constant ventilation. The drawing, number 3, shows the opening of this ventilator. The arrow pointing upwards shows the current of foul air issuing



from below and the other, pointing inwards, indicates the descent of fresh air from above.

Such ventilators should not be made

too small, as the draft would then be greatly impeded. A square of ten inches would answer in a privy.

However, there is a simple and most efficacious mode of abating all smells from privies, cesspools, &c. It consists in the use of dry earth, thrown over the decomposing mass from time to time, as often as necessary. This can be collected by the road-side during the dry season and put aside under cover, when convenient. Dry earth never freezes and can therefore be used at all seasons. No decent family should be without a full supply to last the year round. The manure supply will thus be increased considerably and a great annoyance destroyed.—T.M.

## The Flock.

To What Extent Can We in this Country, Follow the English Methods of Sheep Husbandry with Profit?

[Read by Mr. John Jackson, Abingdon, Ont., before the last meeting of the Dominion Sheep Breeder's Association]

Sheep farmers in England do not all follow the same methods of care and management of their flocks. In some sections where they have shaded permanent pastures the sheep are allowed to roam at large for a portion of the season. In other parts of the country they are folded in hurdles summer and winter. In some cases they are folded on grass land, and moved every day; in others they are kept in folds, the grass being cut and fed in racks—in this they are moved at regular intervals, so that in either case by this system the land is regularly and evenly manured. And again, in other cases the land is sown with vetches; the sheep are then folded on this land, the vetches being cut forward of the fold and also fed in racks.

Another thing the flock masters are very particular about is to use nothing but a first class ram, even in the flocks that are only kept for wool and mutton. They attend the ram sales and buy the best they can get. I know of a breeder that sold last year at the Cirencester Ram Sale forty rams that brought enough money to pay the rent of a good farm of 800 acres, and most of these rams would be bought for crossing. But to determine just how far we can follow the English practice of management in our flocks, we must first consider the different circumstances in which we are placed, our hotter climate in summer, the more intense cold in winter, the smallness of our flocks, cost of labor, the value of the product, etc. Yet in many ways, to a certain extent at least, we should do well to follow their example in the care and management of their flocks. And, while the hot sun and severe frost may be against us to some extent, our climate as a whole is ahead of the English climate for the health and growth of sheep. (1)

In the first place we should do well to pattern after them in the selection of better rams. We now have well-established flocks of all the leading English breeds to supply rams, and which can be purchased at reasonable figures, but too many of the best of these find a market in the United States. It will pay every breeder, even if his flock is small, to use nothing but a good pure-bred sire of some one of

the established breeds. He should settle on the type of sheep that suits his fancy, and at once aim to produce it, and with proper care the result will be as it has been in England; and whether that fancy be for a long or short wool, a white or black face, I would repeat what has been so often said—to keep some one particular breed year after year, always selecting the best to breed from, and the result will be practically a pure-bred stock, notwithstanding the "whims" of those who talk about trouble for the first cross, and a flock running out if kept on the same farm too long. These are theories that have long ago exploded. Another English practice that would be profitable to follow is to castrate all the ram lambs in a mutton flock at an early age. There is a great loss in this country by neglecting this; it is not only when sold to the butcher, but too often some of these cross-bred lambs find their way into other flocks, are used to breed from, and thus cause still greater and almost irreparable loss. (1)

If it would not pay us to fold our sheep on grass in our hot summer weather, it would pay to put more on our pasture, and supplement the pasture by sowing vetches, which are a most excellent food for sheep. This could be fed off by folding the sheep on the land, cutting and feeding in racks the same as in England—by putting them on in the evening, allowing them to remain till morning, then to run in some shady place with a supply of water for the rest of the day. A separate fold with a "lamb creep" would be a good way to push the lambs forward for the butcher or the show ring. These vetches, if sown early, would be ready to cut about the 1st of July, a time when pasturage is often dry and scarce, and if well manured this land would make a good preparation for wheat, or for turnips or rape to be again fed off in the fall. By sowing the vetches at different times, as they do in England, they can be used for a much longer time, and when this is done, have a good piece of corn ready. In this plan we have quite the advantage of the English flock master. I need not tell you what a large quantity of this can be grown on a small plot of land. There is nothing they can grow in England that will at all approach a good crop of corn. It is also a most excellent food for sheep and lambs, especially when run through a cutting box; it is very easily cut even with a hand box, and, when quite green, enough can be taken in at a time to last a week by standing it on end to keep from heating. But it must all be cut before frost, and be allowed to partially cure, and then put inside on end; it will make the best of feed for sheep right up till winter sets in.

Again, if we cannot feed our roots on the land as they do in England in the winter season, we can grow them (and should grow more of them) and feed them inside, where I believe they will do the sheep more good than if fed on the land as they are in England; for even there they are often more or less frozen, at other times in mud to the knees. Another thing I have noticed when travelling through England, that is temporary buildings at the corners of two or more fields for shade and shelter. This in many cases would pay in this country. Then there is the dipping to destroy ticks. This is regularly attended to in England, and it would pay every owner of sheep in

(1) We have spoken of this at least a dozen times, but the omission to castrate is as ripe as ever.—Ed.

this country to follow their example. Some neglect this, but I hope not any members of the Sheep Breeders' Association.

Now, while it may not be practicable to follow all the usages of English flock masters, by applying what we can to advantage I believe we can increase our flocks twenty-five per cent, in number, and as much in quality. Another method which the English breeders have of improving their flocks has been very little practised in this country, that is, the letting of rams—the same thing could be done here with good results.

Many breeders of the very best animals who follow the shows will not sell their best rams, but might be induced to let them out for the season, and it would pay the breeder of a pure-bred flock at least to give the same price for one season's use of a really first class ram that would buy a second rate one out and out, and the cost of shipping a sheep to and fro in this country is considerably less than it is in England.

We have heard a good deal about the different breeds of sheep being only adapted to certain localities in England, and that each of these will yet find their natural element in certain localities in this country. I must confess I don't take much stock in this theory, although there may be some force in it. The fact of the case is, England does not fully bear this out. Right at Cirencester, the very home of the Cotswolds, we find a very large flock of Southdowns doing well. (1) In Oxfordshire, the home of the Oxford, you will find a noted flock of Oxford on one farm and Cotswolds on the adjoining one, and a few minutes drive from there will take you to one of the leading and oldest flocks of Southdowns in the kingdom. In Cambridgeshire (2) you will find the most celebrated flocks of Southdowns, Hampshires and Shropshires. In Norfolk, right among the black faces, you can find a very noted flock of Cotswolds. The same may be said of almost every county in England. It is true, as far as practice goes, there are a few exceptions. In Essex they are principally Southdowns, Lincolns in Lincolnshire, and Shropshires in Shropshire. However there is a great advantage in having each breed located together. The more of any one kind found in a certain locality the more that section will attract buyers; even if it be but a uniform flock of grade sheep all of similar type, butchers, drovers and shippers would pay more for them. An even lot of anything will always command full value in the market.

## THE SHROPSHIRE.

In describing "What a Shropshire sheep should be," Mr. Mansell says, "I cannot do better than give the points which influenced the three eminent men, viz., the late Mr. R. H. Masfen, Mr. John Evans, and Mr. Henry Lowe, who acted as judges at the Birmingham meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society in awarding the prizes at that show. They say, in their

(1) True; but when Lord Ducie gave \$500 a year for Jonas Webb's Southdown ram to put to Ellman's Southdown ewes in the lush pastures of Tortworth, Gloucestershire, he confessed to us that he had better have stuck to the Cotswolds. The Down wool became open and the lambs were poor things. The Oxford is a half-bred Down and Cotswold, and the Cotswold Hills are very like the Southdown Hills.—Ed.

(2) A Chalk country, just like the home of the Southdowns.—Ed.